

CC-1 - GHG Registry

On May 8, 2007, Utah joined with thirty states as a charter member of The Climate Registry. Charter members include Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and the Campo Kumeeyaay Nation. Two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Manitoba, have also committed to participate.

Benefit/Cost of Reducing CO₂e:

Registries do not directly result in emissions reductions but are critical for tracking emission reductions.

Assessment: High Priority. Bin A. 19 out of 22 votes.

A GHG registry provides a platform for mandatory or voluntary reporting. It helps ensure consistent data reporting and accounting methodologies. Companies, governments, and others are encouraged to measure emissions. Incentives may be created for those who reduce emissions, and strategies may be developed to manage potential liabilities. A “common currency” for GHG emissions is essential in laying the foundation for carbon markets.

This is a voluntary program for Utah and provides businesses with the opportunity to get credit for early reductions of greenhouse gases. The Registry will begin to accept reporting data in January 2008.

A registry plays an important role in tracking GHG emissions and is a prerequisite for measuring and tracking any GHG goals or targets. Participating in the registry also prepares Utah for federal regulatory action on climate change and benefits early adopters of GHG reductions.

A voluntary registry will be relatively easy to roll out and can build momentum for the support of a mandatory program.¹ A mandatory program will likely require state legislation. A mandatory program could be phased in to allow companies to develop the expertise. The DOE program could serve as an example for a mandatory program.²

There will be some expense, but less than for other reporting/monitoring requirements. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is easier to report than other emissions, as it does not require continuous emissions monitoring; rather, entities are required to track their fuel consumption.

We recommend that the State consider implementing mandatory reporting requirements as soon as practicable.

¹ See California's program: www.climateregistry.org

² <http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/fmtrvgg.html>